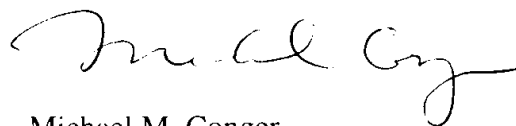


herewith. The claims have also been clarified through amendment. Finally, the Examiner rejects the claims stating that the term "CYP3A4 gene expression" is indefinite. Applicant has amended the claims to refer to the enzyme rather than the gene. Support for the amendment is found on page 11.

CONCLUSION

The points and concerns of the Examiner having been addressed in full, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain unresolved in this application which would bar issuance the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (919) 483-2474, to discuss such issues. Applicants believe that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper other than those specifically authorized herewith. However, should any other fees be deemed necessary to effect the timely filing of this paper the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1392.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 27 November, 2002

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APPENDIX A
MARKED VERSION SHOWING CHANGES

10. (Twice amended) A method of screening a compound for its ability to induce cytochrome P-450 3A4 (CYP3A4) [gene] enzyme expression comprising:

- i) contacting said test compound with a protein comprised of a ligand binding domain of human pregnane X receptor (hPXR), said ligand binding domain including [having] the amino acid sequence of amino acids 141-434 of SEQ ID NO 14, and
- ii) determining whether said test compound binds to said protein[, and
- iii) determining whether a test compound that binds to said protein induces expression of the CYP3A4 enzyme [gene expression].